

Message Text

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13

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 914

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPACFLT

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSARPAC

COMUSTDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 5974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH CB

SUBJ: KHIEU SAMPHAN VISIT TO THE PRC

SUMMARY: AS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED, THE VISIT OF KHIEU SAMPHAN TO THE PRC WAS CROWNED BY MUTUAL SUCCESS. THE RGNUK OBTAINED THE PRC'S MORAL, AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT AND AN OPENLY ANNOUNCED MILITARY AID AGREEMENT--- THE FIRST SINCE THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT. THE CAMBODIAN COMMUNISTS ACCEPTANCE OF CHINESE INTERNATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL THEMES STRENGTHENED THE PRC'S LINKS WITH THE IN-COUNTRY FORCES AND IN SOME WAYS EVEN SEEMED TO MOVE THE CAMBODIANS CLOSER TO PEKING THAN TO HANOI. THE VISIT ALSO SEEMED TO INDICATE PEKING'S ABANDONMENT OF SIHANOUK AS ITS MAIN CARD IN THE
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CAMBODIAN GAME. END SUMMARY.

1. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF MAY 27 ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE KHIEU SAMPHAN VISIT TO THE PRC NOTED BOTH SIDES "FULL SATISFACTION". IT TERMED THE VISIT A "COMPLETE SUCCESS" AND A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE MILITANT FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES.

2. THE CAMBODIAN LEADER'S 20-ODD DAY VISIT WAS INTERPRETED BY AN EXTENDED PRC-FACILITATED TOUR OF ELEVEN COUNTRIES IN PROMOTION OF HIS INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND PRESTIGE. THE CHINESE ACCORDED SAMPHAN AND HIS DELEGATION HONORS NORMALLY RESERVED FOR A HEAD OF STATE. IN ADDITIONA TO MEETINGS WITH MAO, PREMIER CHOU AND VICE PREMIER TENG, CHIANG CHING'S PERSONAL INVITATION TO AN EVENING OF MODEL REVOLUTIONARY OPERA ALSO PROVIDED THE LEFTISTS' SEAL OF APPROVAL. THROUGHOUT THE OCCASION, SIHANOUK FOUND HIMSELF RELEGATED TO ROLE SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN EXTRA. THE VISIT, IN FACT, SEEMED TO INDICATE PEKING'S ABANDONMENT OF THE PRINCE AS ITS MAIN CARD IN CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS.

3. IN CHINA'S FIRST PUBLICIZED MILITARY AID PACT WITH THE RGNUK SINCE THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT, THE TWO SIDES CONCLUDED AN ACCORD FOR CHINA'S GRATIS "PROVISION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES IN 1974." AS USUAL NO DETAILS WERE GIVEN. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR THERE WAS NO COMPANION AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AID. (BOTH OF THE 1973 AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED ON JANUARY 13.) THROUGHOUT 1973 THERE APPEARED TO BE AN EFFORT TO MASK WHATEVER MILITARY ASSISTANCE CHINA WAS PROVIDING THE INSURGENTS IN CAMBODIA (WR 39). LAST YEAR PEKING MEDIA ALSO MADE A POINT OF EMPHASIZING THAT CAPTURED WEAPONS PROVIDED THE MAIN SOURCE OF CPNLA F EQUIPMENT. THE OPEN BUT BELATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS YEAR'S MILITARY AID MAY REFLECT A CHANGE IN CHINA'S PUBLIC TREATMENT OF THIS ASPECT OF ITS SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENT FORCES. PRESUMABLY THE CHINESE HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE MILITARY ASSISTANCE ALL ALONG, BUT WHETHER THE NEW AGREEMENT CALLS FOR INCREASED LEVELS IS UNCERTAIN. SAMPHAN'S EFFUSIVE PRAISE OF CHINESE SUPPORT, HOWEVER, SUGGESTED THERE WAS NO CAMBODIA COMPLAINT ON THIS SCORE.

4. EARLIER IN THE VISIT, SAMPHAN DECLARED THAT CHINA WAS
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"OUR MOST RELIABLE AND SOLID REAR AREA." THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO ADDED TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRC MAY HAVE MOVED AHEAD OF EVEN HANOI IN RELATIONS WITH SAMPHAN AND THE IN-COUNTRY RGNUK FORCES. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT A "FRATERNAL" VISIT, THE CAMBODIAN DELEGATION, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, PAID TRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNDER THE "CORRECT LEADERSHIP OF CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG" AS WELL AS TO CHINA'S PRACTICE OF

"MARXISM-LENINISM AND MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT",
A PHRASE USUALLY SKIRTED BY THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS.
MOREOVER, THE CAMBODIAN LEADERS' ACCEPTANCE OF THE CHINESE
WORLD VIEW, IN PARTICULAR THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PRC'S ANTI-
SUPERPOWER, ANTI-HEGEMONIC LINE, APPEARED TO MOVE THE INSUR-
GENTS CLOSER TO PEKING AND FARTHER AWAY FROM MOSCOW AND THE
SOVIET CAMP. FINALLY, THE COMMUNIQUE NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES
WERE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD WORLD.

5. ALTHOUGH PEKING RE-ENDORSED SIKHANOUK'S FIVE -POINT PRO-
POSAL FOR ENDING THE CAMBODIAN CONFLICT, PRC STATEMENTS
DURING THE VISIT DID NOT EXPLICITLY DENOUNCE THE POSSIBILI-
TY OR THE IDEA OF PEACE TALKS. THE PRC ALSO REMAINED
CAUTIOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR NEAR-TERM VICTORY. ALTHOUGH
CHINA ACCEPTED THE RGNUK CLAIM TO CONTROL OF 90 PER CENT
OF THE COUNTRYSIDE , VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN'S REFERENCES
TO THE "PROTRACTED" STRUGGLE, INDICATED THAT THE PRC WAS
NOT EXPECTING AN EARLY END TO THE CONFLICT.

6. THE COMMUNIQUE CAME DOWN HARD ON THE U.S. AND ITS
WAR OF AGGRESSION. HOWEVER GIVEN THE OCCASION, THE ANTI-
U.S. STATEMENTS WERE NOT USUALLY SEVERE.
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